

Automation of the Electronic Vessel Manifest Confidentiality Request Process

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On May 22, 2020, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) deployed an automated online application for submitting electronic vessel manifest confidentiality requests. This enhancement enabled ocean carriers, importers, exporters and consignees utilizing ocean transportation to manage their own confidentiality requests electronically via an online application.

What will change?

Currently, carriers, importers, exporters, or consignees may submit mail or email requests for confidential treatment of their name and address on inward and outward vessel manifests, which typically requires 60-90 days for processing. The new enhancement automated this process via an online application, located on CBP.gov, reducing the processing time of confidentiality requests to as little as 24 hours.

In addition, the new online application enabled the companies and individuals to directly input all applicable name variations as part of their confidentiality request. This enhanced the requesting party's ability to ensure that a name provided matches the name entered electronically in the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE).

Who will be impacted?

- Carriers
- Importers
- Exporters
- Consignees

What resources are available?

- [Electronic Vessel Manifest Confidentiality Webpage](#): Users can navigate to CBP.gov to access the new online application form (beginning May 22) and view more information on the Importers Confidential Treatment of Vessel Manifest.

Who do I contact if I have issues?

Technical questions related to the new Electronic Vessel Manifest Confidentiality Request Online application should be directed to vesselmanifestconfidentiality@cbp.dhs.gov.

